



The Alternative Fuels Data Center and The National Alternative Fuels and Clean Cities Hotline

World's most comprehensive sources of AFV Information

ENERGY
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Transportation

FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

With the passage of the Alternative Motor Fuels Act of 1988 and the Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 1992, Congress has affirmed America's commitment to becoming less dependent on imported oil by using alternative fuels and more efficient forms of transportation. These new technologies are on the road today due to technological innovations resulting from successful partnerships between the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Transportation Technology and other government and industry groups.

Increasingly, alternative fuels such as propane, ethanol, natural gas, electricity, and methanol are being used in the ever-expanding market of alternative fuel vehicles. Vehicles that rely on hybrid electric, fuel cell, and advanced battery technologies have also been developed through government and industry research and development programs. In an effort to support and promote these trends, the Department of Energy established the Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) in 1990. Housed at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, the AFDC's main objective is to collect, analyze, store, and distribute information that can help advance the choice to use alternative and advanced transportation technologies.

At the forefront of the Alternative Fuels Data Center's activities is the AFDC Web site, a resource of unbiased, accurate information about alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFV). This Web site is updated on a daily basis with new information. Constant interaction with alternative fuels government and industry leaders and researchers provides the AFDC with the most accurate and up-to-date information available on alternative fuels today.

The AFDC Web site is an effective source of information for government, industry, private groups, and individuals that need access to facts and figures to formulate effective policy and make informed decisions. A site search engine for alternative fuels information gives users

access to the numerous documents, reports, newsletters, public policies, and legislation that have been stored electronically in the AFDC. Available information includes:

- Demonstration program and emissions testing results;
- Refueling infrastructure site information and maps;
- Manufacturers product information on alternative fuel vehicles;
- Descriptions of federal and local AFV programs;
- Technological information on advanced vehicles;
- Alternative Fuel newsletters and up-to-date fuel price reports; and,
- Clean Cities contact and program information.

Information posted and catalogued on the AFDC Web site is divided into two main categories: 1) data housed in the AFDC; and 2) links to other related sites. One major source of documents and information stems from the U. S. Department of Energy's Office of Technology Utilization, which encompasses the Federal Fleet AFV User Program, the Clean Cities Program, the AFV Field Operations Program, and the Alternative Fuel Transportation Program (EPA regulatory programs). National laboratories are also major contributors to information developed and housed in the AFDC. Other document and data sources originate from the contacts made utilizing related links to alternative fuel information sites, as well as information fed to the AFDC by the National Alternative Fuels and Clean Cities Hotline. Links to other sites include government and non-government agencies; state agencies; energy and transportation organizations; energy suppliers; auto manufacturers; universities; electronic newsletters and periodicals; and national laboratories. These links offer unique insights into technological innovation, and provide real world examples of the successful utilization of alternative fuels.



The popular Alternative Fuels Data Center which distributes more than 18,000 documents, reports, and newsletters to the public each month.

The National Alternative Fuels and Clean Cities Hotline is based in Fairfax, Virginia. Hotline personnel assist callers in accessing AFDC information and answering questions related to all aspects of alternative fuels. Hotline information requests are forwarded to the Alternative Fuels Data Center for processing and distribution. The AFDC fulfills Hotline requests by sending out hard copies of the documents stored in its library. The AFDC distributes more than 18,000 reports, documents and newsletters, in response to over 950 Hotline inquiries each month. The Hotline responds to over 10,000 inquiries annually.

The Hotline also provides a central location for information related to DOE's Clean Cities Program, which is designed to encourage the use of alternative fuel vehicles and the development of alternative fuel infrastructure in local communities. About 80 Clean Cities Coalitions exist around the nation, working to promote the use of alternative fuels in their communities.

Coalitions build partnerships with local industry and government to demonstrate that it is economically viable and beneficial to introduce domestically produced, clean alternative fuels and vehicles into the transportation sector. Particular emphasis is placed on niche markets, focusing especially on fleets that are centrally located, large, and/or have high mileage. Information and materials provided by the AFDC give local fleet operators the facts they need to calculate the incremental costs surrounding the purchase of alternative fuels. Information about government mandates and incentives for fleet utilization of AFVs is also available.

The AFDC Web site can be found at <http://www.afdc.doe.gov>. For Web site information about DOE's Clean Cities Program, visit <http://www.cities.doe.gov>. To speak with someone about a specific issue, call the National Alternative Fuels and Clean Cities Hotline at 1-800-423-1DOE or 1-800-CCITIES.

**For more information on how
DOE is helping America remain
competitive in the 21st century,
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